DECISION SUPERIORITY through BATTLESPACE ON DEMAND

naval meteorology and oceanography NEWS

December 01, 2014

Commander's Corner

It's hard to believe that another year is almost over, and we're already heading into the holiday season. It's amazing how quickly time passes when you're staying busy– and Naval Oceanography has certainly had a busy and productive year. You continued to contribute to our Navy's success in every aspect of operations around the globe. I can't tell you how proud I am of what we've accomplished in 2014, including the successful transition of select headquarters personnel to NAVIDFOR, continued positive exposure in the Fleet Forces weekly ops brief, and our designation as CTF 80.7.

You've also cut a wide swath of operational successes that include earning BZs from Commander Naval Forces Korea, U.S. Fourth Fleet, Commander Task Force 52, Commander Destroyer Squadron 26 and 28, USS Shiloh (CG 67), USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7), USS Oscar Austin (DDG 79) – just to name a few! Your efforts are part of ensuring our nation can celebrate this season knowing the world's most powerful Navy is on watch around the world.

Looking to the new year, we have much opportunity to look forward to. First is our growing support from our new Type Commander, NAVIDFOR. I just returned from the NIDF Commander's Summit, and we secured a significant commitment from Rear Adm. Kohler to help address our conference attendance limitations and review of our FTE caps. Within CTG 80.7 we will continue to focus on our Maritime Operations Center (MOC) establishment, maintain our international and interagency partnerships, continue supporting all Fleet and Joint warfare areas, and develop advanced sensing, modeling and decision-support technologies. These will converge to make 2015 a fantastic – and even historic – year for Naval Oceanography.

The holiday season is a time for relaxation, reflection and remembrance – and I sincerely hope you all enjoy some time off – you've certainly earned it. If you're home for the season, please take a moment to think or pray on the men and women, military and civilian, who are unable to be at home because they are serving our country. This includes deployed individuals, as well as CONUS and OCONUS watchstanders in Naval Oceanography - BZ shipmates!

It's also a time to keep safety first and foremost in your mind, with the increased travel and celebrations this time of year. Please look out for each other, and keep an eye on your shipmates who may be having a difficult time during the holidays. Each and every one of you is important to our Navy family, and we need you all to return recharged and ready for the new year.

As always, it is an honor to serve with alongside you and see the warfighting advantage you deliver to the fleet every day. Thank you for your commitment and dedication, and I wish you all a wonderful holiday season**.**

From the Deputy/Technical Director

Leading From the Front

During a recent Executive Council meeting at Stennis Space Center, I took the opportunity to describe an encounter I overheard between a new chief and a petty officer that gave me food for thought. The morning before the meeting, the petty officer told the new chief he no longer had to perform a routine task since he was promoted. The chief's reply was "Petty Officer, the chief leads from the front, not from behind."

The reply resonated with me, and I believe we should operate with that attitude throughout our community. No matter what the issue or problem, we need to lead from the front and not be led from behind – whether in our professional life or our personal life. If you are dealing with credit debt, family issues or health problems, think about what you can do to get out ahead of the issue instead of the issue leading you.

We are taking a similar approach at COMNAVMETOCCOM to ensure we successfully overcome a number of challenges. First and foremost is the continual pressure to reduce costs and still provide outstanding support. The Executive Council reviewed a number of programs that could be consolidated and revised – before an outside agency decided for us. Another area is the transfer of man, train and equip responsibilities to the Information Dominance Type Commander. Rear Adm. Gallaudet charged the Executive Council members to work as a team and be in sync as an enterprise. He also asked the members to embrace optimism as a force multiplier, to stay on message and to thank the new type commander for all its support as we move forward.

Rear Adm. Gallaudet's final challenge to the group – and to the entire community of officers, enlisted and civilians – is to make the best first impression that you can. You only get to make a first impression once, and Rear Adm. Gallaudet wants his community to make the best impression as we move forward with Information Dominance. We are small, but agile and quick. Get out in front and embrace the best aspects of our community.

Navy Establishes Information Dominance Forces

SUFFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- The Navy established the Information Dominance Forces Command (NAVIDFOR) as the U.S. Navy's newest Type Command, Oct. 1.

NAVIDFOR is a global readiness-focused TYCOM, responsible for organizing, manning, training, equipping (MT&E) and identifying requirements for all Navy Information Dominance (ID) capabilities.

"The standup of Navy Information Dominance Forces Command is a significant step in the right direction," said Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert, during a recent All Hands call for Navy Cyber Forces. "The Information Dominance Corps Type Command allows for a more holistic approach that was not possible in the past."

NAVIDFOR consolidates and aligns missions, functions and tasks previously managed by separate ID commands to improve the generation and sustainment of ID force readiness across the Navy.

Resources and personnel are being realigned to support the transition of functions under one TYCOM. NAVIDFOR is expected to be fully operational by Dec. 31, 2014. Rear Adm. Matthew J. Kohler relieved Rear Adm. Diane E.H. Webber as Commander, NAVIDFOR on Oct. 3.

IDFOR Stennis Ribbon Cutting. Mark Kosnik, deputy commander of Navy Information Dominance Forces (NAVIDFOR) Command; Rear Adm. Matthew Kohler, NAVIDFOR commander; Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NAVMETOCCOM); and Dr. Bill Burnett, NAVMETOCCOM deputy/technical director (L-R); cut the ceremonial ribbon to open the IDFOR Stennis spaces. NAVMETOCCOM (CTG 80.7), based at Stennis Space Center, Miss., was administratively re-aligned under NAVIDFOR on Oct. 1 and is operationally part of U.S. Fleet Forces Command. U.S. Navy photo/Released

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Navy Oceanography Signs Three-Year Agreement with Geographic Software Leader Esri

STENNIS SPACE CENTER, Miss. (NNS) -- Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NAVMETOCCOM), signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) Sept. 3 with Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc. (Esri), the geographic information systems company.

"This CRADA will be a key enabler for our mission and top priority -- providing unmatched battlespace awareness and environmental information to the warfighters that yield better decisions made faster than the adversary," Gallaudet said.

The Esri software and system allows detailed geospatial data to be analyzed with all its time and geographic references. Strong spatial analytics and enterprise collaboration capability link Navy METOC resources with Navy commanders at sea. This marriage of analytics with METOC data help achieve the NAVMETOCCOM goal of Battlespace on Demand. With it, operational Navy commanders can make faster decisions, better incorporating weather and ocean conditions directly into their operational plans.

The three-year CRADA establishes a working relationship between Esri and NAVMETOCCOM, which has been an Esri software customer for more than a decade.

With the new CRADA, Esri personnel will see Naval Oceanography work first-hand and potentially develop additional applications as they collaborate with Navy operational oceanography modeling experts at the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVOCEANO), NAVMETOCCOM's largest subordinate activity.

Navy oceanographers and Esri's Defense Solutions Team will cooperate on 10 objectives that will improve Esri's commercial off-the-shelf systems while also serving to improve geospatial reasoning in the oceans in support of naval warfare.

Esri software is used in more than 350,000 organizations worldwide, providing integrated technical solutions across an enterprise, integrating desktop, mobile, server, and internet platforms. Over 50 U.S. Naval commands use Esri software to enable their geospatial capabilities and decision-making.

Fleet Survey Team Conducts Surveys for Bold Alligator

STENNIS SPACE CENTER, Miss. (NNS) -- Fleet Survey Team (FLTSURVTEAM) led the way for Bold Alligator '14 with beach and hydrographic surveys of the strategic training and operational beaches that will be used in the exercise that began Oct. 29; Fleet Survey Team completed its work Sept. 21.

"You can't get to the fight without being able to navigate to the fight, and that's what we provide," said Cmdr. David Kuehn, FLTSURVTEAM commanding officer. "We take away navigational uncertainty in the littorals, providing physical battlespace awareness to the on-scene commander in order to make safety of navigation decisions for his or her ship-to-shore force movement."

Hydrographic surveys provide that mission-critical information by measuring water depths and by creating an accurate map of the sea floor in the near-shore areas.

The six-person survey team for Bold Alligator provided the Marine Corps Intelligence Activity, Expeditionary Strike Group 2, and U.S. Fleet Forces with tactical decision aids that will help leaders determine which beaches and areas of beaches are viable for landings. The month long project included the survey of three separate areas at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Va., and Camp Lejeune, N.C.

FLTSURVTEAM (CTE 80.7.1.1) is operationally part of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NAVMETOCCOM) under Fleet Forces Command, and as of Oct. 1, was administratively re-aligned under U.S. Navy Information Dominance Forces (NAVIDFOR) Command.

Personnel

Navy Aerographer's Mates Aid in Rescue Mission

SUFFOLK, Va. (NNS) -- Two Aerographer's Mates (AG) assigned to USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) from Fleet Weather Center, Norfolk, recently provided their ship with more than just a weather report, they provided "real world" battlespace awareness that resulted in the successful rescue of a missing Sailor, Sept. 11.

Iwo Jima received a distress call from USS New York (LPD 21) regarding a possible "man overboard" during Amphibious Readiness Group exercises off the coast of South Carolina.

Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Tara M. Crow and Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Lachelle M. McMahan were aboard Iwo Jima when the man-overboard call came in. McMahan immediately collected her recent observations of winds, seas, and other pertinent data, and then contacted Crow, who was the Forecast Duty Officer at that time.

With no indication of the Sailor's initial position, Crow used New York's previous course and speed, and the information gathered by McMahan, to produce a containment graphic that provided rescuers the best locations to conduct the search. McMahan used a web-based search and rescue (WEBSAR) model and a Geophysics Fleet Mission Program Library (GFMPL) model to come up with the graphic.

"I immediately took the ingested data and entered it into the WEBSAR model to get a standard lock on the area to start looking for the missing Sailor," said McMahan. "When we ran a GFMPL model, we added more data and current information to give us an even more accurate location."

Capt. J. E. McGovern, commanding officer, USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) presented on-the-spot Navy Achievement medals to Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Lachelle MacMahan (top) and Aerographer's Mate 1st ClassTara Crow (gold star in lieu of third award) for their contributions in the rescue. (U.S. Navy photos/Released)

The WEBSAR provides fleet on-scene environmental predictions, while the GFMPL uses ingested data from the forecaster and produces a drift map that predicts a possible location for a given timeframe.

"I immediately started comparing the data to analyze the information entered in the programs to ensure accuracy," said Crow. "We knew the situation was real, and we had to work as quickly and efficiently as possible to find the missing Sailor."

Using the information provided by the two models, Crow produced a search recommendation and provided it to all rescue personnel in the Iwo Jima Amphibious Readiness Group, which included New York, USS Jason

Dunham (DDG 109), guided missile cruiser USS Vicksburg (CG 69), and U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Tybee Island (WPB 1332).

Thanks to quick action and the efforts and expertise of Crow and McMahan, an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter crew assigned to Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM-46) embarked Jason Dunham, and located and recovered the Sailor shortly after 11 p.m.

After more than five and a half hours at sea, the Sailor was located within 1200 yards of the forecasters' predicted position.

"Our great Iwo Jima Sailors not only did exactly what they are trained to do in search and rescue situations, but they applied critical thinking and effective communication skills to provide the right information at the right time to ship and helicopter crews," said Capt. Rich Delgado, commanding officer, Fleet Weather Center, Norfolk. "I am tremendously proud of Petty Officers Crow and McMahan and all their Fleet Weather Center, Norfolk teammates!"

Both AGs received on-the-spot Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals (NAM) for their contributions in the rescue of the New York Sailor. Crow received a gold star in lieu of a third award, and McMahan received her first NAM.

Both Sailors agree that they were just doing what the Navy trained them to do.

"I immediately acted on instinct," said Crow.

"I feel the same way; it was just second nature," added McMahan.

Iwo Jima's Commanding Officer, Capt. James E. McGovern, concurred with Delgado on the fleet's appreciation for the weather team's efforts.

"They were remarkable in every way," said McGovern. "The Navy cannot ask for more from either Sailor."

Martin Promotion. Retired Navy Capt. Brad Martin (c) promotes his brother, Brett (r), to the rank of captain on Oct. 1. Looking on is Dr. Bill Burnett, deputy/technical director of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NAVMETOCCOM). Brett Martin is NAVMETOCCOM Operations Department director of weather and of undersea warfare. (U.S. Navy photo by George Lammons/Released)

Mitchell Retirement. Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet (left), commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NAVMETOCCOM), pins a Navy Commendation Medal on Chief Aerographer's Mate Larry Mitchell to mark the end of Mitchell's tour at NAVMETOCCOM and the end of his 23-year Navy career. Mitchell retired Oct. 17. (U.S. Navy photo by George Lammons/Released)

Moeller Retirement. Chief Aerographer's Mate Matthew Moeller of the Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Center Stennis retired from the Navy after 20 years of service in a ceremony at Stennis Space Center, Miss. (U.S. Navy photo by George Lammons/Released)

Brooks Retirement. Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command (NAVMETOCCOM), presents Lt. Corey Brooks with the Meritorious Service Medal as Brooks' end of tour award. Brooks, NAVMETOCCOM Current Operations manager, also retired after a 25-year Navy career. (U.S. Navy photo by George Lammons/Released)

Items of Interest

Clockwise from top left: Rear Adm.Lars Saunes, Chief of Royal Norwegian Navy, visited with Cmdr. Kelly Taylor, commanding officer of the Naval Ice Center (NAVICECEN), and Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, commander of the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command, at NAVICECEN on Nov. 17 (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

Allison Skiles explains how seafloor bottom grab and bottom core samples are taken to Rear Adm. George Ballance, commander naval forces southern command/ U.S. 4th Fleet, and Rear Adm. Clarke, Deputy director of the Joint Interagency Task Force South during a tour of USNS Pathfinder (T-AGS-60) while in port Naval Station Mayport. Also pictured are Lee Kormondy Senior Naval Oceanographic Office Representative and Eric Villalobos, NAVSOUTH/ C4F Naval Oceanography Program representative. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Adam Henderson/Released)

Aerographer's Mate 3rd Class Annette Rose, Fleet Survey Team, steers an expeditionary survey vessel off of Landing Craft Air Cushion 29 assigned to Naval Beach Unit 7 into the water to perform a hydrographic survey of a beach at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Naval Education and Training Command during Amphibious Landing Exercise 2015. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Amanda R. Gray/Released)

Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Robert Carlson, left, and Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Melvin Lankford, assigned to Commander, Task Group 56.1, deploy a MK 18 MOD 1 Swordfish to survey the ocean floor during the International Mine Countermeasure Exercise (IMCMEX). (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Blake Midnight/Released)

NOAC Yokosuka School Visit. Lt. j.g. Melissa Jon Moore (right) and Aerographer's Mate 3rd Class Ciera Meadows (left), from Naval Oceanography Antisubmarine Warfare Center (NOAC) Yokosuka teach second grade students about air circulation during a visit to Ikego Elementary School on Oct. 22. The visit was an opportunity for students to interact with aerographer's mates and review how clouds, lighting, thunder, tropical cyclones, and earthquakes occur. (U.S. Navy photo by Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Nicole Strickland/Released)

Fleet Weather Center Norfolk hosts National Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Fleet Weather Center-Norfolk's Multi-Cultural Committee hosted a Hispanic Heritage Celebration and pot luck lunch celebrating the diverse tastes of Hispanic culture Oct. 14 in commemoration of National Hispanic Heritage month.

Sailors of all ranks provided a presentation about the contributions Hispanic Americans have made throughout our nation's history, including people and events that helped shape today's military and Navy.

Guest speaker Lt. Cmdr. Joel A. Vargas, USN (Ret) shared his personal experiences in both the enlisted and officer ranks within the Navy, including the challenges he encountered as a minority service member.

Lt. Cmdr. Vargas entered the Navy under the Delayed Entry Program in 1981. After "A" School, he was designated an aviation structural mechanic from 1983 to 1996 when he was then commissioned as a chief warrant officer. After achieving the rank of CWO3 he was selected for promotion under the Limited Duty Officer program and rose to the rank of lieutenant commander before retiring after 30 years of active duty service. He continues to serve as a military affairs representative for USAA.

"Regardless of the obstacles you encounter with in your career, you can make the choice; let them hold you back, or work harder to achieve your goals," he said. "I'll let you decide which path I chose."

Hispanic Heritage Month: Capt. Rich Delgado (left), commanding officer of Fleet Weather Center Norfolk makes a presentation to guest speaker Lt. Cmdr. Joel A. Vargas, USN (Ret.) at the center's Hispanic Heritage Celebration Oct. 14. (U.S. Navy photo/Released)

Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Center Yokosuka Raises the Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist Pennant

Naval Oceanography Anti-submarine Warfare Center (NOAC) Yokosuka held an Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist (EIDWS) Pennant presentation ceremony on Oct. 9, with guest speaker Rear Adm. Sean Filipkowski.

NOAC Yokosuka was the first command in Yokosuka and the first meteorology and oceanography command in the Information Dominance Forces community to earn and fly the EIDWS pennant. The pennant was raised by EIDWS Assistant Coordinator Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Brandon Vitense who has served at the command since January 2011.

America Hosts Hydrography Students in Chile
By USS America Public Affairs

VALPARAISO, Chile – The then-future amphibious assault ship USS America (LHA 6) hosted five meteorology and oceanography (METOC) officers while in port Valparaiso, Chile, Aug. 26. The five METOC officers, all from various navies across the globe, were attendees at the Category A Hydrography program at the Servicio Hidrografico Oceanografico de la Armada de Chile.

The navies represented during the visit included Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia, Chile, and the United States.

America's METOC officer, Lt. Kyle Franklin, gave the students a tour of the ship and explained the ship's METOC equipment and capabilities.

"This was a great opportunity to showcase our nation's newest ship and advanced aircraft to South American counterparts," said Franklin. "Spending time interacting and learning from each other throughout the morning really helped develop a greater understanding of why what we do as METOC officers is so important to military mission success."

According to Franklin, hydrographers contribute to anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, naval special warfare, safe navigation and fleet operations. For the amphibious fleet, the support provided by hydrographers is essential.

"What was so unique about this visit today with international METOC officers is that we discussed how hydrography and meteorological exchanges impact international relationships, especially here in South America," said Franklin. "Through hydrography programs, such as this one in Chile, navies from around the world can better work together to build expertise and conduct hydrographic surveys of foreign ports and waterways. "

Throughout America's two-month maiden transit "America Visits the Americas," the METOC division on board has been working long hours to ensure the safe circumnavigation of South America through high-seas, unpredictable winds and changing temperatures.

According to Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Ashley Beacham, the transit around South America challenged the METOC division on board America, but it emphasized the division's importance to the mission.

"This has been an exciting, but challenging two months," said Beacham. "Working with South American countries has taught me a lot about my rate and about the importance of maintaining strong relationships in this region. The coordination with Chilean weather experts prior to the ship's Strait of Magellan transit contributed immensely to the success of the evolution."

America traveled through the U.S. Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet area of responsibility on her maiden transit, "America Visits the Americas." America is the first ship of its class, replacing the Tarawa-class of amphibious assault ships. As the next generation "big-deck" amphibious assault ship, America is optimized for aviation, capable of supporting current and future aircraft such as the MV-22 Osprey and F-35B Joint Strike Fighter. The ship was commissioned Oct. 11 during a ceremony held during Fleet Week in San Francisco.

USS Nimitz SGOT Provides Crucial Support for F-35C Interoperability Test

By Lt. Cmdr. Jonathan Savage

On Nov. 3, Sailors from Fleet Weather Center San Diego embarked USS Nimitz (CVN 68) for an historic underway. At 12:11 p.m. PDT, the F-35C Lightning II made its first landing on an aircraft carrier on board Nimitz. This event marked the beginning of a two-week testing period where the Navy's future strike fighter was put through the paces of carrier operations.

Tests were extremely weather-sensitive; forecasts and observations made by Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Brett Madore's Nimitz Strike Group Oceanography Team played a critical role in ensuring a successful test program. Each night, the carrier positioned itself based on Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Monica Delcoro and Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Brian Heiler's recommendations to achieve best winds for the following day's test. Engineers and test pilots regularly checked their test plan against the forecasts to ensure their minimum and maximum wind requirements could be met.

Local and divert field weather observations provided by Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Marcus Foudy, Aerographer's Mate 3rd Class Naomi Bedford, Aerographer's Mate Airman Aurora McCoy and Aerographer's Mate Airman William Coddington were critical to ensuring minimum ceiling requirements were met.

Celebrating a historic landing. (left to right) Lt. Cmdr. Jonathan Savage (Nimitz OA), Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Brett Madore, Aerographer's Mate Airman Aurora McCoy, Aerographer's Mate 2nd Class Marcus Foudy, Aerographer's Mate 3rd Class Naomi Bedford, Aerographer's Mate Airman William Coddington, Aerographer's Mate1st Class Monica Delcoro, and Aerographer's Mate Airman Recruit Brian Hamilton (Nimitz OA) (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist Seaman Sowersby /Released)

US, Polish Forecasters Share Weather Knowledge

By Lt. Coriandre Johnson

KAPAUN AIR STATION, Germany (NNS) -- Forecasters from Fleet Weather Center Aviation Detachment (FWCAD) Kapaun, Germany, co-located with the U.S. Air Force's 21st Operational Weather Squadron (OWS), shared weather forecasting knowledge with two counterparts from the Polish armed forces last week.

The joint meteorological workshop provided U.S. and Polish participants with cross-training in tactics, techniques and procedures used by all services. The Polish meteorological and oceanographic forecasting officers, second lieutenants Monika Kaczanowska and Daniel Kowalczyk, received a condensed version of the command's certification training course and hands-on experience with weather equipment and systems.

Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Timothy Spears of Fleet Weather Center Aviation Detachment and Airmen from the 21st Operational Weather Squadron discuss weather products with Second Lieutenants Monika Kaczanowska and Daniel Kowalczyk of the Polish Armed Forces during a recent joint meteorological workshop. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Armando A. Schweier-Morales)

"We appreciate the opportunity to be here, because not many weather soldiers of our rank get to travel abroad and learn like this," said Kowalczyk.

The forecasters exchanged strategies that not only broadened their knowledge base but supports continued partnership with NATO counterparts.

"Working with the Polish forecasters was definitely a great experience," said Aerographer's Mate 1st Class Timothy Spears. "It's interesting to see the similarities and differences within the same field. We were able to compare ways [of] doing the same job, and I think everyone gained something from it."

FWCAD works jointly with the 21st OWS to provide weather support to installations and aviation units operating within the United States European Command, United States Africa Command and United States Central Command area of responsibilities. Together, the commands are responsible for producing and disseminating mission planning and execution weather analyses, terminal aerodrome forecasts, and resource protection for forces operating at 491 DoD installations, encompassing 92 countries.

DECISION SUPERIORITY through BATTLESPACE ON DEMAND

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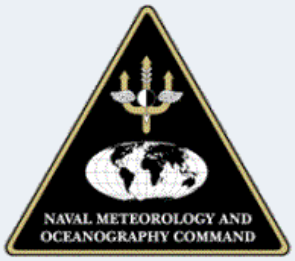

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